

I am very frustrated by the inaction of the House Republican conferees and how their obstructionism is negatively affecting job creation in this country. The current transportation extension expires at the end of this month. We are in the height of the summer construction season, and we are losing the opportunity to get these jobs going and the construction and the manufacturing industries back to work.

One surefire way to create jobs is to invest in our country's infrastructure, but House Republicans are obstructing it at every turn. Last month, we were forced to pass a 10th temporary extension of highway funding because of the GOP's inaction. This is my 20th year here, and this is the first time that this bill has been held up because of partisanship.

This inaction only increases the instability for the construction industry, and it makes it impossible for State and local governments to plan long term.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY DISABILITY

(Mr. PITTS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. PITTS. Madam Speaker, according to the Social Security trustees, the Social Security Disability program is expected to exhaust its trust fund in just 4 years. If the fund is exhausted and if nothing is done, only around 80 percent of the benefits will be paid out. Over 11 million Americans could be impacted.

Again, we have another government entitlement program headed towards bankruptcy. This is a program that costs as much as the annual budgets of the Departments of Agriculture, Homeland Security, Commerce, Labor, Interior, and Justice combined. I know how important this program is to many of my own constituents. With regard to Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and the disability program, tens of millions of people rely on these programs, but they are not structurally sound.

Doing nothing is not the answer, and taking funds from the general revenue does nothing to provide the long-term stability that we need. We need real innovative reform that fixes our problems, that saves and strengthens these programs without piling up debt. If we don't act to save and strengthen these programs, our creditors will make the decisions for us down the road. We need to address these problems in a bipartisan manner. One party can't do it alone.

#### ANTHONY ANDERSON, A RISING JUNIOR AT LA SALLE ACADEMY

(Mr. CICILLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. CICILLINE. I rise today to honor Anthony Anderson, a rising junior at LaSalle Academy in my home State of Rhode Island.

Earlier this year, Anthony was awarded a Gold Medal from the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards for a self-portrait he submitted focused on the issue of bullying. Anthony has been recognized each year by the National Scholastic Art & Writing Awards since he was in the seventh grade, and this month, Anthony's painting is on display at an art gallery in New York City.

His family and his art teacher at LaSalle were invited to Carnegie Hall last week for a ceremony honoring his work and the work of other Gold Medal winners from across our Nation.

I congratulate Anthony on his impressive accomplishments and join Rhode Islanders all across our State in wishing him continued success in the years ahead.

#### HONORING RECIPIENTS OF THE SMALL BUSINESS WEEK AWARDS

(Mrs. BIGGERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. BIGGERT. Madam Speaker, too often people in Washington forget that it's our small businesses that create jobs, not government. These men and women are doing the most important work to bring about economic recovery and growth. In fact, over the past 17 years, small businesses have created an impressive 65 percent of all new American jobs.

So today, Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in celebrating the successes of our local job creators, including two individuals from my district who are being recognized by the U.S. Small Business Administration, SCORE and the Illinois Department of Commerce and Economic Opportunity.

Congratulations to Kathy Xuan, the CEO of PARC Corporation, which is a plastics recycling company in Romeoville, Illinois, on being named Exporter of the Year. I also offer a hearty salute to Mike Rohan, the President of All Trust Home Care, Incorporated, which is in Hinsdale, Illinois, who has earned the Entrepreneurial Success of the Year Award.

These achievements are an important reminder to Congress that we must put politics aside and work together to create an environment where leaders like Mike and Kathy can do what they do best—create jobs.

#### STOPPING THE STUDENT LOAN INTEREST RATE HIKE

(Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CONNOLLY of Virginia. American innovators contribute to an economy second to none and provide a strategic advantage in national security. But from where will the advancements of tomorrow come?

The U.S. ranks 27th in the world in graduates with science and engineering

degrees, so the last thing Congress should do is make education less affordable. Yet that's exactly what will happen on June 30 if Congress fails to act. Interest rates on student loans will double, hiking the yearly payments by \$1,000 for more than 7 million students in this country.

April's Republican ruse of tying student loan interest rates to the evisceration of preventative health care for women and children was an unconscionable partisan ploy. No parent should be forced to choose between his child's health and education. No woman should have to choose between breast cancer screening and a student loan.

Lowered interest rates were the result of bipartisan cooperation between a Democratic Congress and a Republican President. We must stop the interest rate hike in a responsible and bipartisan manner, and I urge speedy action.

#### IN HONOR OF GAYLEN BYKER

(Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. HUIZENGA of Michigan. I wish you could meet my friend, Dr. Gaylen Byker, a truly renaissance man who was born in Iowa but raised in Hudsonville, Michigan, which is in my district, where he grew up in a family that was very entrepreneurial and very politically involved. His father actually served as a State senator, Gary Byker.

Gaylen attended Calvin College, where he is now President, and earned a BA with concentrations in philosophy, English, political science, and speech, with a minor in Russian. He also entered the Army in 1967 and served in Vietnam, and he was discharged with the rank of captain. He went on to earn a law degree at the University of Michigan and then his master's degree in world politics at Michigan as well. After that, he decided he needed to get his Ph.D. in international relations from Pennsylvania.

He then served and worked at an energy exploration company out of Houston. He worked on Wall Street, both on energy as well as in derivatives and futures. He then served as a lawyer in Philadelphia. He has been involved in numerous organizations and volunteer opportunities, including the Ruffed Grouse Society of the United States.

He is an avid hunter—and a pretty good shot as well, I might add. He became president of Calvin College in 1995, where he has served it since then for the last 17 years. Gaylen is truly a person who has left a place better than when he found it.

Dr. Byker, we just want to say thank you for your service to Calvin College in the greater community in west Michigan.